

2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal Homily Guide & Suggestions for Fall Announcement Weekend (September 20)

All priests (pastors and parochial vicars) at parishes still striving for their 2026 appeal goal are asked to preach about the Catholic Ministry Appeal at all vigil and Sunday Masses during the Fall Announcement Weekend (September 20). In preparing their homilies, it is helpful to review the list of funded programs & [impact statements document](#) on the parish resource page.

Below are some thoughts which may be helpful for talking points as you develop your homily for Announcement Weekend (September 20).

- This year's appeal theme is, "*Children of God.*" Parishioners should be encouraged to reflect upon the many gifts God has given to them, and that they can live out the beatitudes by helping so many people by sharing their gifts with increase to the Lord, out of love of God and neighbor. Supporting the appeal directly helps thousands of their neighbors.
- The appeal helps the less fortunate among us, provides spiritual and physical comfort and counsel to those in crisis, and inspires children, young adults, and families to embrace and nurture their Catholic faith.
- It is my hope that each parish family will participate by making a commitment to the appeal this year. Further, I ask you to pause and really reflect on how you could stretch a bit to make a TRULY sacrificial gift to this important appeal. Currently our parish is at X% of our parish goal of \$XX. (-Or- thus far over X parish families have participated in the appeal, it is my goal to achieve 100% participation).
- The appeal presents us with an ideal opportunity for personal reflection. Next weekend, September 27 is our Autumn Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Ministry Appeal, so I ask you to pray about supporting the appeal over this next week. We know there may be families who are not able to donate to the appeal this year. However, if your circumstances allow, please give prayerful consideration to making a sacrificial commitment to the appeal this year. You might possibly even make up for someone who can't make a gift.
- I greatly encourage all to consider a recurring gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal this year. A recurring or sustaining gift is one that continues on a monthly basis, until you ask to stop. These kinds of gifts allow the ministries that the appeal supports to continue their vital works of mercy.
- The appeal presents an opportunity to think about the fact that everything we have and everything that we are is given to us by God. As you have heard many times before, we are asked to increase God's gifts and to return a portion of them for the work of His Church. Let your commitment to the appeal be an outward sign of your charity and compassion for others.
- The appeal sustains and fosters the vocations of our diocesan seminarians. We are blessed with young men who are exploring their vocation to the priesthood. Let us ensure that the next generation of priests from our diocese have everything they need to God willing be ordained priests.

End with: "Now, let us together view a message from Bishop Parkes regarding the 2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal..."